224TH MILITARY
INTELLIGENCE
BATTALION
(AERIAL
EXPLOITATION)
HUNTER AAF, GA

Vigilant Gazette



3rd Quarter, 2012

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COMMANDER'S CORNER

CSM Dant and I have arrived safely in Afghanistan and are leading a Battalion level Task Force. Task Force CONDOR consists of Soldiers, Department of the Army Civilians and contractors from numerous organizations that have wide and vast intelligence capabilities. Our Soldiers are from different units across the US Army which include the Ist Military Intelligence Battalion (Aerial Exploitation), 15th Military Intelligence Battalion, 306th Military Intelligence Battalion, 306th Military Intelligence Battalion and other individually attached Soldiers. These Soldiers conduct



daily combat Airborne Reconnaissance operations employing the Hunter Unmanned Aircraft System and Guardrail Common Sensor. In addition, the US Army Program Managers have assembled a team from across the US industrial base to employ our contracted airborne systems and they are the largest contingent within Task Force CONDOR. These systems together represent a very wide range of intelligence disciplines; Signals Intelligence, Communications Intelligence, Imagery Intelligence and Measurement and Signature Intelligence. We work together to save lives of the Coalition in Afghanistan and work toward continued success of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Task Force CONDOR and Task Force Observe, Detect, Identify and Neutralize (ODIN) Afghanistan are subordinate Battalion's to Task Force ODIN Enhanced (TF ODIN E). Together our team is leading change in the way we conduct airborne reconnaissance operations. We are implementing a familiar concept but employing intelligence collection slightly different in a holistic fashion. A foundational difference is our ability to leverage the vast intelligence capabilities resident throughout TF ODIN E while fusing these into one multi-disciplined intelligence product for Brigade and Regimental Combat Teams. We are increasing our leverage upon the intelligence organizations within the Continental United States in efforts to meet National guidelines for the maximum number of Soldiers we can have on the ground in Afghanistan. The 224th Mission Operations Facility (MOF) continues to have a large and significant impact on this daily operational support in Afghanistan and the entire ODIN Enhanced Tasking, Processing, Exploitation, Dissemination and Finish (TPEDF) process. The 224th MOF has forged enhancements to its core Signals Intelligence mission areas while turning a proof of concept imagery exploitation site into the newest standard for excellence which others are attempting to emulate.

Well, it just wouldn't be proper in Southern Georgia style to only talk business. The kids are out of school, spring sports are finished, family vacations are underway, boats are filled with gas and smoke from BBQ's are filling the sky while friendships are built strong. Rest assured that the 100 degree dry heat in Afghanistan is a little different than at home in South Georgia where both the humidity and heat is climbing each day. Certainly prefer the one closest to my family and friends.

As you enjoy the pleasures of the summer, ensure you protect yourself and your families while enjoying this popular time of year. It is your duty and responsibility to "Protect this House" and our fellow Soldiers. Soldiers and families are this Nation's most precious asset. Do not take them for granted. Thank you for your service and sacrifice whether you are enjoying some down time, deploying soon or just getting back. I am continually in awe at your great accomplishments as member of this team and am very proud to serve alongside you!

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CSM FOXHOLE

Greetings from Task Force CONDOR, Kandahar, Afghanistan. LTC Mettling and I are settling in to our new positions and your Soldiers are doing remarkable things here in the name of FREEDOM. The Army has asked us all to do much more, with much less and the Soldiers from the 224th have stepped up to the plate and knocked it out of the park! Every day I am impressed and honored to stand amongst them. We are collectively making history and continuing to provide over a third of the Intelligence, Reconnaissance and Surveillance that is acquired in Afghanistan. Many lives are saved every day due to the work that your Soldiers perform.



I would like to take a moment to recognize a few of the many accomplishments that I have personally witnessed here. Congratulations goes to SPC(P) Mitchell, and SGT(P) Colston for their recent success at the Promotion Board. Congratulation also goes out to SPC Worthy for his recent re-enlistment which the LTC and I had the honor of attending. Lastly, Congratulations and Welcome to the Battalion's newest First Sergeant... ISG Reginald Barkley, who assumed the reins as the HSC, TF CONDOR First Sergeant on the 10th of June. His leadership and guidance will be a tremendous asset to us all.

Summer is here! Make sure you're all taking the proper precautions and discussing the safety issues that coincide with the Season. Ensure you and your children are protected from the sun, the surf and the grill. Also remember, school is out... Children will be increasingly present during the day – slow down and pay attention. Have a great time and enjoy the summer break as a Family. Never forget: you are the elite! Your Army, your Nation and the World rely on you!

~ CSM Dant

SOLDIER SPOTLIGHT

SOLDIER RECOGNITIONS

AWARDS SAFETY AWARDS

BSM - MAJ WEAVER
BSM - ILT CHAMPOUX
CW4 BROOKS
BSM - CW2 JAMESON
SSG GRUBB
MSM - CPT CROSBY
SGT MILLER
OSM - CW5 LAVOY
SPC FALKNER
AM - CW5 JENSEN
SPC BRYAN

AM - CW4 MAGNESS
AM - CW3 HAYS
NATO MEDALS

AM - CW3 BRISCO
AM - CW3 LADD
ILT JACOBSON

ARCOM - ILT JACOBSON SGT SANDERS
ARCOM - CW5 COLLINS

ARCOM - SPC CALDWELL

ARCOM - SPC SEEGEL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDALS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDALS

MOVSM - SFC WARD

AAM - ILT CHAMPOUX

SGT EASTMAN

SGT HOANG

AAM - 2LT DAVIS

CPL VEGA

SPC GAMESON

AAM - SGT ROSE

AAM - SGT POLEWARZYK

CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVMENT

AAM - SPC MAPES

AAM - SPC CANFIELD

SGT WELLS, SPC ALMAJADI, SPC FLETCHER,

AAM - SPC STAFFORD

SPC GUERRERO, SPC SISCO, SPC BRADLEY,

PFC SERPA

Welcome the newest members of the 224th Military Intelligence Battalion (AE) Family.

BABY KING BABY BOLLI BABY LEE BABY GOYEA
BABY POLEWARCZYK BABY SIMPSON BABY HOOKER BABY PRIEST

Arrivals - Welcome to the 224th Military Intelligence Battalion (AE).

PV2 COOK SPC DONNELY SPC BLAS SGT BRAHM SFC CHAMBERS SPC LANG CW2 EDWARDS CW4 KEY SPC LAAKE PFC FITZGERALD CW2 FOXWORTH PFC HUFFMAN SPC LARKIN SGT NIXON PFC PINTO **CW3 SHUMATE** SPC ROBERTS PFC ROYCE SPC RUPING SFC STRONG

SPC MCANULTY SPC WALLACE SGT WHITE SGT WRANCHER

Departures - Farewell and good luck in all of your future endeavors.

SSG GARVIN LTC COLBROOK SGT WILL CPT CROSBY SSG CARTER SSG SVIRIDOVSKY

SGT ROSE SSG CAPEHART

AAM - PV2 GRIFFIN

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REAR DETACHMENT COMMANDER

Hello again 224th family. It's been awhile since I've had the opportunity to write an article. I believe the last one was during the holidays and I was the Forward Detachment OIC. There have been many changes recently, most importantly is the deployment of the Battalion Commander and Command Sergeant Major in early May, leaving the need for a Rear Detachment Command. That command team is myself and ISG Babin from B Co for the short term.

The 224th has been incredibly busy with continuing the CBR that we have been executing for several years now, assuming new mission sets and training for contingency deployments. Although busy, this increase in work is very rewarding for the Soldiers. As we continue moving forward during this time of transition, we must strive to be ready for the next chapter in our mission as a battalion.

The summer also brings with it the move cycle that many of us have been accustomed to in the military. These moves are bitter sweet, as more and more new faces show up, it inevitably means some of our family members are moving on. For those of you leaving us in the coming months, we bid you a fond farewell and god speed. It has truly been a pleasure to serve with you. To the new arrivals, I would like to welcome you to the premier Aerial Exploitation Battalion in IN-SCOM. It will seem like drinking from a fire hose at first, but believe me it slows down... eventually.

Thank you all for your service to our country. Enjoy the summer and have fun.

~ MAI Weaver





HSC COMPANY

Summer greetings from the 224th Military Intelligence Battalion's Headquarters and Service Company. For those of you who don't know me, I'm ILT David Jacobson and I am the new HSC Executive Officer. I just recently redeployed from Afghanistan and am taking over for 2LT Davis as he gets set to deploy down range with a number of individuals from our company. I would like to wish those who are currently deployed and who are about to deploy a safe journey. We look forward to seeing you back soon. There have also been a few departures and arrivals to the Company over the past quarter besides just myself, and we expect many more newcomers in the near future! We'd like to welcome SPC Blas and CW3 Riley to the "Workhorse" team and congratulate PFC and Mrs. Lee, SGT and Mrs. Goyea, and CPT and Mrs. Hooker on the births of their new babies.

HSC has been having fun these last couple of months dressing up for the 513th MI Brigade Ball, sauntering through the CBRN chamber, shooting all different types of weapons at the ranges, and much more. Our supply section has been hard at work turning in old, unused equipment that has been sitting around the Battalion since the "Dark Ages." The Battalion motor pool looks much sharper after our Soldiers cleaned out a number of old storage sheds. The HSC Family Readiness Group has also conducted a number of fun events ranging from a morning at the beach, to a magic show, and movie nights for the whole family. Come out for some more fun filled activities in the near future.

As the summer progresses, the months are starting to get hotter and hurricane season is picking up. Please stay safe on your vacations and if you're going to the beach, be cautious of the currents and don't forget the sun screen. As your new company safety officer, please come stop by my office if you need any information on how to weather the storm. I look forward to working with each one of you in the near future.



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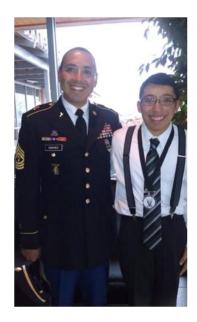
CHARLIE COMPANY

As this fiscal year's third quarter draws to a close, Charlie Company still leads the Battalion in births! Congratulations to PFC Simpson and Mrs. Simpson on the arrival of Macey Brooke Simpson (I MAR 12), SGT Bolli and Mrs. Bolli on the arrival of Matthew J. Bolli Jr. (6 MAR 12), and SGT Priest and Mrs. Priest on the arrival of Jubilee Gale Priest (30 MAY 12). Another big congratulation goes to SFC Deman and SFC Fresch on their promotions to Sergeants First Class, well deserved.

Charlie Company has been leaning forward in the foxhole with mission support for the war fighter in Operation ENDURING FREEDOM with the integration of new capabilities. With these new capabilities and systems comes training and mission requirements which we have met head on. We also initiated a partnership with the MI Companies from 1st, 3rd, and 4th BCT's, 3ID to assist in intelligence mission support. This partnership is proving beneficial for all parties by providing real world experience and reinforcing critical MOS skills. In order to accommodate the upgrades, the new mission operations facility will break ground and construction will begin this quarter with anticipated completion in one year. During this transition phase of the mission, both figuratively and literally, C Co has had to bid farewell to some outstanding Soldiers. SSG Carter has departed to Korea, SSG Sviridovsky and SGT Martin have reached their ETS. They will be missed. In happier news, C Co has received Soldiers to fill the void, namely SFC Pinson, SGT Nixon, SPC Larkin, SPC Linares, SPC McNaulty, SPC Ruping, PFC Fitzgerald, and PFC Huffman. Welcome to the C Co family!

We also want to wish a happy homecoming to ILT Jacobson who has just completed a deployment to Afghanistan. Thank you for a job well done, and good luck in your new position as HSC Executive Officer. Soldiers going down range and currently deployed are ILT Love, SSG Martin, SGT Sipe, and SPC Worthy. Stay safe!

~ ISG Chavez



ALPHA COMPANY

Training like we fight!!!

A new reign has begun; CPT Harmon has departed the Company to work in the S3 shop and I have assumed Command Duties. I look forward to serving with each and every Soldier, DAC, and Contractor assigned to the Company.

The Company's training program both for basic Soldiering skills and improving operator's proficiency has been top notch. A Co continues to support forward deployed elements and training support to units from around the Intelligence and Security Command (INSCOM). The Platoon level leadership has been actively engaged in relooking how we conduct training to improve areas were needed.

As we highlight events for our forward site, SFC Holt is weeks out from returning home from a six month deployment. SFC Holt worked diligently with the TF ODIN's leadership supporting combatant commanders in Afghanistan supervising our Government-Owned, Contractor Operated (GOCO III) site. His accomplishments and sacrifices have done much to further the overall mission in the area. Currently, CW2 Trogdon deployed to replace SFC Holt at the site. Mr. Trogdon is expected to serve for six months, and will bring an abundance of knowledge on UAS operations to the site. SSG Evans recently departed and has arrived downrange to assume the maintenance NCOIC position for I st MI BN. In the very near future, SSG Evans will be joined by four more Soldiers to assist with supporting the fight. They are SGT Herrera, SGT Canfield, SGT Duro, and SPC Mapes. All five are expected to serve for six months and bring a great deal of experience to daily operations. SGT Duro recently returned from Afghanistan (pictured below), but his critical position as an External Operator earns him another trip downrange.

At Wright Army Airfield, Alpha Company continues aggressive flight operations in our long standing effort to prepare for future operations forward. The Company launches multiple training flights on the Army's MQ-5B, or Hunter, unmanned aerial system. These efforts train individual Soldiers on aviation/operator tasks further preparing them to support troops on the ground with real-time intelligence.

The Company said goodbye to our Standardization Officer SSG Capehart and Aircraft Operator SGT Colvin. These outstanding NCOs departed the Company and are currently being trained on the MQ-IC "Grey Eagle". Grey Eagle is the Army's latest and greatest Extended-Range Multi-Purpose (ERMP) unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV). Secondly, key maintainer SGT Robert Will (pictured bottom right) departed the Company and has transitioned to the civilian world to pursue Mechanical Engineering in Southern California. On a positive note, the Company reenlisted 5 Soldiers thus far, and has 6 more eligible. The Company was able to promote numerous Soldiers over the last quarter; picture below shows 2LT Turley being promoted to ILT by his father.







Above the Fight! ~ CPT Coe/ISG Ruiz

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BRAVO COMPANY

As the summer begins, Bravo Company has undergone some drastic changes in which we have seen some great Soldiers depart for new challenges in their careers as well as new and old faces coming into the ranks. Recently Bravo Company had a change of command in which CPT Russell replaced CPT Crosby as the Company Commander. Dave, Fawn and the rest of the Crosby Family will be sorely missed by the Company and the Battalion for that matter as their leadership team created lasting professional and personal relationships throughout the unit. In addition ISG Babin has been pulled up to the Battalion as the acting Command Sergeant's Major and SFC Cromartie has stepped up as the acting ISG.



As I take command of an already amazing company I look forward to the challenges presented by the Battalion's only actual flight company. Most of you already know me and know that I come from an eleven year career as an enlisted Soldier finishing up as a Sergeant First Class and then a short stint as a Transportation Officer before finally switching over to Aviation in 2007. Each and every assignment has had its ups and downs but I'm pretty confident that this assignment will be one I cherish the most because of the Soldiers and families within our great company. Thanks for all you do!

June has been a very busy month for the Company in that we have picked up another RC-12X aircraft from Sacramento and conducted the logistics required to send that aircraft to Afghanistan. This process is a comprehensive one that ranges from flight operations personal preparing the required documentation to fly through different countries, the Electronic Warfare personnel testing and shipping the mission equipment in an ISU-90 container, maintenance personnel ensuring the aircraft is flight ready, and the pilots doing what pilots do. At this time CW4 Magness and CW3 Brisco are currently en-route in the aircraft for Afghanistan in which they will traverse numerous countries and the Atlantic Ocean.

Finally I would like to take a moment and recognize some retirements within the Company for men that have given their all to support our troops and country. CW4 Scott Hassan, who also just received the Order of Saint Michael, and most recently CW4 Brandon Stites both of whom have been invaluable assets to our unit. They will both be

missed, but the good news is they will both be staying here in Georgia with us.

JUMPMASTERS LEAD THE WAY!

SUNNY 06 ~ CPT Russell



SAFETY

First of all, I would like to thank all the Soldiers in Safety Positions; everyone has been doing a great job and I truly appreciate it.

I know old Bret Gray is very busy in the sand box, I just hope they don't run out of Diet Coke for him!

Since January I have been either deployed or in school, and as always SSG Pepple has been working hard keeping the Safety Program going here at home.

I would like to congratulate CW4 Lucius (4000 HR), CW4 Brooks (3000 HR), and CPT Russell (1000 HR) who have all recently received Flying Hour Safety Awards. I appreciate all of their efforts not to break anything which makes my job much easier. I am very lucky in the fact that the 224th has a great group of professionals in all ranks.

The heat is upon us here in Georgia. It is important to enjoy all the summer activates, but it is important to not exceed limits as well. I know my 2 criminals (8 &10 year old boys) would love to be out in that sun all day, which can be very dangerous. Look out for each other, and look out for your friends and neighbors as well. I know I personally like to work out in the yard for hours, and many times I just need to walk in the house to cool off for a while from the heat.

Also, please don't forget those Soldiers working hard in the sand box, this time of year is hot and miserable, take the time to ensure you check in on them to ensure they have what they need. It is easy to forget just how hot it gets out there.

Have a Great Summer!

~ CW4 Adam Duszak





The Criminals!

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DOC

The Good: A noticeable number of 224th MI Soldiers are committing to quit tobacco. This is great! Everyone in the Battalion can help these Soldiers break this very harmful habit. If you are quitting, find a quit buddy. If you continue to use tobacco, avoiding using tobacco around those quitting. If you're a leader, allow Soldiers who are quitting non-smoking breaks. If you're a couple who uses tobacco, quit together. www.ucanquit2.org is a good website to help you quit and if you complete the quit plan, you can get medications to help you quit from Tricare for free.

The Bad: With only one medic in 224th MI, making appointments is more difficult. To adapt, we will be using central appointments to book routine, follow-up, part 2 physical appointments, and leave messages for me such as prescription renewals. This is a learning process for us. Continue to use central appointments first. Any problems or difficulties should be reported to SSG Cook for resolution and feedback. Once working, this also has other benefits: you will get reminder phone calls about your appointment and can check-in at the computer kiosks (pictured on the right). Sick call remains the same; 0700-0730 at Tuttle weekdays except holidays.



The Ugly: Communication is key. In the complicated environment of medicine, it is also very difficulty. Between patients, primary care managers, specialists, nurses, medical assistances, technicians, insurance (Tricare), the command, the internet (Google, WebMD), TV/radio (news, advertising), family, and friends, there is a lot going on. If the medical plan is ever unclear, ask. Everyone should have a clear understanding of what is being done, why it's being done, and when to come back. If things are not going as expected (referral trouble, treatment not working), tell your primary care manager (i.e. me). You are your own best advocate for your health.

~ CPT Patterson

CHAPLAIN

"Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding."
-- Proverbs 4:7

When we read King Solomon's words here, we might think that God really, really wants us to read a big boring book on philosophy or something. But that's not necessarily the case. God does want us to be "wise," but the Bible's idea of wisdom is often different from what we generally think it is. We often think of a wise person as someone like a college professor or a doctor. That is, we think of someone who's really smart and has a lot of education. But that's not the way the Bible presents wisdom. It's not a synonym for "smart." Well, then, what is it?

Sometimes a contrast is helpful. The opposite of a wise person is a fool. And we think of fools as slow or dimwitted or stupid; someone unintelligent. But in the time of King Solomon, they didn't think of fools as people who were stupid. In fact, a person could be very cunning and intelligent – and still be a fool. Foolishness was not a category of intelligence or logical skill. Rather, it was a moral category. A fool was someone who was morally deficient and could not tell right from wrong. It was a person who, in their character, lacked discernment on how to distinguish good from evil. And there have been some very evil people in the world who are also very smart.

So a wise person would be the opposite. It would be someone who is morally grounded and centered. In the Bible's terms, it was someone who lived life God's way and not their own. They knew what was morally right and what was morally evil, because they understood what God desired of them. They didn't have to be the smartest person in the room, or even the most educated. Instead, their understanding lay in the realm of the ethical, moral, and spiritual. They were more interested in developing their virtue than they were in developing their pocketbooks or their reputations. This way of living would result in what was objectively good and beneficial – not only for the wise person himself, but also for those who surrounded him. Wisdom was supremely good, and in that sense, it was worth everything else you might have to sacrifice in order to achieve it.

If God and kings saw the supreme value and worth of wisdom, shouldn't we?

~ CH (CPT) Kersey



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MONEY MATTERS

For the S4 shop, the start of the third quarter saw some changes in personnel. As CPT Jonathan Coe took command of A Co, CPT Jonathan Andrade replaced him as the OIC of the S4 shop. Also, SFC Carlos Naranjo joined the S4 team as a new NCO, working alongside SFC Williams. CPT Andrade comes to us from TF ODIN and SFC Naranjo from 25th ID. While we're excited to welcome in new faces, we will miss CPT Coe and wish him and his family the best with A Co.

To shop news. The S4 continued to find ways to turn in excess equipment, move people from point A to B, and spend lots of LTC Mettling's money. This quarter, CPT Andrade and CW3 Johnson attended many meetings regarding upgrades to battalion facilities, with the hope of many of these projects starting before the end of the fiscal year. The shop also worked with all company supply sergeants to turn in excess equipment, consolidate required property, and turn in 15 "dog house" storage containers that were a blight on the motor pool's immaculate footprint.

Ultimately, the overarching highlight fell to the motor pool. The guidance of CW2 Hood and SFC Sydnor – coupled with tireless efforts from the motor pool staff and 2LT Davis – led the Battalion to become the Army's runner up for the Army Maintenance Excellence award. CW2 Hood has assured the command that next year the Battalion will win the award outright, and we have no doubts they will do it!

In the property book office, CW3 Pringle successfully managed the transition of three property books to new commanders – one of which belongs to B Co in Afghanistan – without loss of a single item. The Battalion also fielded a new supply tracking system (to include one with B Co downrange) and new CBRN equipment, complete with training for operators.

SFC Williams and SFC Naranjo continue to work as the S4 liaisons with B Co downrange by working with SGT Colston in Afghanistan to ensure that all required equipment gets into the fight as quickly as possible. Both of these NCOs spent tireless hours this quarter ensuring last minute requests were purchased; that Soldiers found their way to their TDY locations on time and with active government credit cards; and provided mentorship and supervision to all the supply sergeants in the Battalion.

In the next quarter, the S4 shop plans on expanding the Government Purchase Card and Defense Travel Systems to the Company level, allowing command teams more flexibility and oversight with their purchases and their personnel's travel. Also, the next quarter should see the purchase and delivery of much anticipated grounds maintenance equipment (this may seems trivial, but ask any ISG and you will quickly see the importance!). Further, Ms. Sears stands poised to ensure that ALL of LTC Mettling's money gets spent before the end of the fiscal year. We will be working furiously to ensure that no dollar goes wasted (or unspent!).

S4 Tip of the Quarter: When traveling TDY ensure your Government Credit Card is activated. If you are flying, you will not be allowed to travel without a Government Credit Card (so if you're reading this and don't have one, please come see us today). Also, Government Credit Card use is mandatory for rental car and hotel purchases.



This newsletter contains official and unofficial information.

The inclusion of some unofficial information in this newsletter has not increased the cost to the Government in accordance with DOD 4525.8-m.

FAMILY READINESS ACTIVITIES AND CONTACTS

FAMILY READINESS



Ms. Ashley, FRSA

The FRGs have been staying busy with various activities. Many participated in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, and the battalion-wide Organization Day. Thank you to Mrs. Kimberly Dant for spearheading the Race for the Cure event, and 1LT Jacqueline Harbin for leading the Organization Day planning.







There have been many changes within the FRG this quarter. We welcomed two new FRG leaders. Mrs. Angie Brooks is now the FRG leader of Bravo company, and Mrs. Meltrece Coe is heading up Alpha company. We are also welcoming Mrs. Erin Law as our battalion Recorder/ Secretary.

Congratulations to Mrs. Stephanie Kersey. She was our Volunteer of the Quarter for 2nd quarter FY12.

Congratulations to Mrs. Nicole Weaver. She is our Volunteer of the Quarter for 3rd quarter FY12.





224th Military Intelligence Aerial Exploitation (AE) BN FRG



For community news and events, both at HAAF and in the greater Savannah area, find us on Facebook.